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**THE STRUGGLE FOR SOVEREIGNTY  
PALESTINE AND ISRAEL, 1993-2005**  
Edited BY JOEL BEININ AND REBECCA L. STEIN

In the wake of a shocking Hamas victory in Palestinian elections, and uncertainty about Israel's political future, what are the prospects for comprehensive peace between Israel and Palestine? What accounts for the growing popularity of Hamas in the post-Oslo era? After the 1993 Oslo Accords people across the world anticipated the onset of peace and an end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. By the fall of 2000, with the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising and the rise of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to power, the so-called peace process was declared moribund. What is the relationship between the Oslo Process and this second Palestinian uprising? What kinds of cultural and social trends have accompanied these political shifts?

A new volume, *The Struggle for Sovereignty: Palestine and Israel, 1993-2005* (available in February 2006 from Stanford University Press) takes on these contentious, often polarizing issues. The contributors to this collection include scholars, journalists, and activists, conversant in Arabic and/or Hebrew, whose approach to the conflict has been formed by years of residence in the region.

The editors show how the Oslo process "failed to create the necessary conditions for a just and lasting peace in the region." They contend that Oslo did not change the balance of power in the region, as it consigned Palestinians to an inferior status for at least the interim five-year period and established no mechanism to prevent Israel from taking unilateral measures in the Occupied Territories, and thus failed to create the conditions necessary for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Since 2000, Palestinian impoverishment, increased incarceration, and the growing popularity of the militant Islamist group, Hamas—can be traced to the 1993 Oslo accords, and the neo-liberal, economic vision of its architects. While political and economic investigations are at the book's core, it also addresses questions of cultural production, and the ways that "everyday political battles are waged through artistic and consumptive processes."

The authors contest the representation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as one between two monolithic people and positions. Instead, the book reveals a more complex political reality with political and social differences on both sides of the Green Line. Sections entitled "Inside Palestine: Occupation, Social Movements, and Governance" and "Inside Israel: Militarism, Citizenship, and Struggle" explore the voices of dissent in the feminist peace movement, contesting interpretations of history, varieties of nationalism and political identity (Zionist versus Postzionist; Hamas versus Fatah), and minoritarian politics.

In addition to scholarly articles, the volume includes documents, maps, poetry, and graphic art.

## About the Editors

**Joel Beinin** is Professor of Middle East History at Stanford University. With Zachary Lockman, he coedited *Intifada: The Palestinian Uprising Against Israeli Occupation*, a collection of essays on the first Palestinian intifada. In 2002, he served as President of the Middle East Studies Association of North America.

**Rebecca L. Stein** is an Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Duke University. She is the coeditor, with Ted Swedenburg, of *Palestine, Israel, and the Politics of Popular Culture* and a contributing editor of the Middle East Report.

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